

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 12, 2007

Old Redmond School House, Room 204

"Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors"

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Chair John Stilin, Jill Krusinski, Latha Sambamurti, Eva Moon, and Kamal Siegel

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Chairperson Tom Flynn

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Churchill, Recreation Program Manager; Mary Yelanjian, Arts Administrator; Meagan Farrell, Recording Secretary

YOUTH ADVOCATES PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT: Brad Lehrer, Jan Sherwood, Karen Besserman and Ruth Caspary

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair John Stilin called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:03 p.m. at the Old Redmond School House.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of June 14, 2007 carried without objection.

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- Add award presentation for Jan Sherwood.
- Remove Grant discussion as more review time is needed.
- Remove Infrastructure Committee report.
- Add Art Outside the Box after the Program Committee Report.

**Motion for approval of the revised RAC agenda of July 12, 2007
carried without objection.**

IV. CHAIR REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Flynn

None

B. Vice Chair Report - Stilin

None

V. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Brad Lehrer, the past president of the Redmond Rotary Club, came to observe. Yelanjian spoke at the Rotary Club meeting that morning, which sparked interest with him.

Karen Besserman, the Director of Development for 2nd Story Rep Theatre, came to thank RAC for the grant they were awarded. She shared program details about upcoming shows.

VI. AWARD PRESENTATION – Stilin

RAC presented Jan Sherwood with the Arts Volunteer Award for all of her service. Congratulations to Jan Sherwood! Sherwood thanked RAC and offered her volunteer services to anyone who needs them.

VII. STAFF REPORT – Yelanjian

- A. **Percent for Art** - Yelanjian shared samples of some of the pieces of art from Percent for Art. A press release will go out to advertise the public viewing.
- B. **Digital Arts and Gaming Festival** - Grant applications have gone out to attain funding for the Digital Arts and Gaming Festival. An application for \$7,500 went to Humanities Washington and a letter of inquiry for a \$30,000 grant went to the Paul Allen Foundation. Commissioner Siegel suggested that this be called a “nocturnal festival.”
- C. **Arts in the Parks Sponsor** - Yelanjian passed out drinks from the new Arts in the Parks sponsor – IZZE drinks. They will provide free drinks to all attendees at this event.
- D. **Site Specific Performances** - The total cost for all the Site Specific Performances is \$1,500, which is a low price.
- E. **Microsoft/Safeco Exhibit** - An article ran in the Seattle Times, highlighting the Microsoft/Safeco Exhibit.

VIII. DISCUSSION ABOUT MANAGING ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE - Siegel

Siegel asked if there is a process for dealing with requests that are presented by audience members during RAC meetings. RAC agreed that groups need to be specific about what their request is. The Chair or Vice Chair will ask the presenter if they need something or need follow-up on anything. If they do have a need, it will be assigned to a sub committee to deal with. Yelanjian will also follow up with thank you notes for anyone who attends as guests. *This will be discussed in more detail in the Administrative Committee.*

INTERMISSION – No performance.

IX. INDIVIDUAL DONATION DISCUSSION - Yelanjian

Yelanjian raised the issue of collecting private donations from individuals for events. Currently, donation boxes are located outside of events for patrons to put money in if they choose to. This is a cumbersome thing for the staff to deal with due to the accounting that has to take place. Yelanjian suggested sending a letter of procurement to attendees after events instead. *RAC agreed that the Administrative Committee should take a closer look at this. RAC is also asked to send any suggestions to Yelanjian in the interim.* In the meantime, there will be no more donation boxes at events. Churchill stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking into the possibility of creating a foundation and RAC may be able to collect donations under that umbrella. She will keep RAC posted on that process as it unfolds.

X. PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE - Sambamurti

A. Derby Days

RAC won the award for the best costumes in the parade. Thanks to Commissioner Moon's sons, Eric and Alan Gordon, for carrying the banner in the parade. Thanks to Commissioner Krusinski's daughter, Kate, who passed out candy. Thanks to Pat, volunteer, for pulling the supplies cart.

B. Arts in the Park

The kick off for this event is July 14 at 7pm at City Hall with a performance by Geoffrey Castle. RAC is invited to attend. Earlier that day, there will be an open air painting event from 2-6.

C. Winter Performance Series 2008

The next Programming Committee meeting will be held July 19 at 6:30 pm. Application packets and audition materials will be reviewed at this meeting. RAC is invited to attend.

XI. ARTS OUTSIDE THE BOX - Yelanjian

Yelanjian asked RAC to consider supporting this program and expanding the pilot program to include ten more boxes at an approximate cost of \$10,000. There was much discussion on whether this program should be continued and if it offers benefit to the community as there is no feedback from the public on it. Staff stated that this program's pilot program was very successful and that if RAC votes to do it now, the program can take place this fall. Vice Chair Stilin felt like RAC needed to explore the benefits of the program in further detail. *It was decided that the Programming Committee will review this program and make a decision, which RAC agreed to support.*

Motion to allow Programming Committee to decide whether or not to fund this program up to \$5,000. RAC will support the Programming Committee's final decision. Commissioner Siegel

Second by: Commissioner Krusinski

Motion carried: 4-1, with Vice Chair Stilin voting against it.

Vice Chair Stilin brought up the concern that as part of the reorganization process we had a rule that said all items that were brought to a vote would go through subcommittee for review and recommendation. This did not happen. Debra Churchill responded that the City reserved the right to bring anything to RAC to vote on.

XII. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Stilin

The final version of the grant application is being reviewed by the Administrative Committee. They made various changes and will distribute it to RAC upon completion.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Moon asked Yelanjian about Yelanjian's idea of expanding the Winter Performance Series. Yelanjian stated that she is currently working on the space issue. *Vice Chair Stilin suggested that Yelanjian look into space at Overlake School.* Commissioner Moon suggested adding a Winter Arts Jam if the Summer Arts Jam is successful.

Another PSA went out to recruit new RAC members. There are 3 spaces to fill and 4 applicants so far. The application process will close on July 20. Interviews will take place during the 2nd week in August. The goal is to swear in the new RAC members at the September City Council Meeting.

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Siegel

Second by: Commissioner Moon

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Meagan Farrell.

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
August 9, 2007
Old Redmond School House Community Center
7:00 p.m.**

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: July 12, 2007

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Brad Lehrer	17509 NE 31 st Ct., Redmond	425-883-7400
Ruth Caspary	6702 139 th Ave NE #754, Redmond	510-593-3676
Jan Sherwood		
Karen Besserman	2 nd Story Rep, Redmond	